



Steven K. Young, Director

Clear Lake Woman Pleads Guilty to Medicaid Fraud

DES MOINES, IOWA (July 3, 2006) – Tamara Gavin-Freeman, 44, of Clear Lake recently pleaded guilty in Cerro Gordo County District Court to a charge of Theft in the Fifth Degree. Gavin-Freeman was accused of fraudulently obtaining payments from the Iowa Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) for services she did not provide. She was originally charged with Fraudulent Practices in the Third Degree but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge.

Cerro Gordo County District County Judge Carlynn Grupp ordered the defendant to pay a fine and assessed court costs of \$624.50, as well as make restitution in the amount of \$669.88 to the Medicaid Program. Gavin-Freeman had been a Consumer Directed Attendant Care provider for a person with disabilities. The investigation, conducted by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, substantiated that Gavin-Freeman billed Medicaid for services she did not provide. Additionally, the DIA investigation found that the Medicaid recipient's husband often provided care on those days for which the attendant care provider billed the medical assistance program.

Assistant Cerro Gordo County Attorney Carlyle Dalen, who prosecuted the case, said the county attorney's office is committed to helping the State of Iowa and the Department of Inspections and Appeals by prosecuting fraud cases. In addition to the Court-ordered fine, costs, and restitution, Gavin-Freeman's name has been reported to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Inspector General's Office. As a result of her conviction, she will be barred from participating as a provider in the Medicaid program.

###

Gavin-Freeman

This release and other news items from the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) may be found on the Department's "Hot Notices" web page at
<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dia/page20.html>.